



# Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program 2009



FEMA



FEMA

# Introduction

**Name:** David Gronsbell

**Title:** Regional Fire Program Specialist - Contractor

**Work Location:** **DHS/FEMA Region II – Grant Programs Branch**  
Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 1307  
New York, NY 10278

## Methods of Contact:

**Office:** Ph: (732) 427-1524  
Fax: (732) 427-1490

**Email:** [david.gronsbell@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:david.gronsbell@associates.dhs.gov)

# Grants Administered by AFG Program Office

Assistance to Firefighters Grants  
(AFG)



Staffing for Adequate Fire and  
Emergency Response (SAFER)



Fire Prevention and Firefighter Safety  
Research and Development (FP&S)



# **Total 2009 Appropriation**

## **\$775 million**

- **AFG** **\$565 million\***
- **SAFER** **\$210 million**

**\* Includes an allocation of  
\$35 million for FP&S**

# Introduction

- 2009 AFG Program Overview
- Application and Electronic Scoring
- Developing a Comprehensive Narrative
- Exercise
- SAFER
- Fire Prevention & Safety
- Grants Management



FEMA



# **Introduction**

**Please raise your hand if you fall into one of the following categories:**

- I represent an organization that has never applied for an AFG Grant.**
- I represent an organization that has applied for an AFG Grant but never been awarded.**
- I am individual who has never applied for an AFG grant.**

# 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grants



FEMA



# **Assistance to Firefighters Grants**

## **Purpose**

**Protect the public and fire service personnel from fire and all other hazards.**



# **Assistance to Firefighters Grants**

## **Eligible Applicants**

- **Fire departments**
- **Nonaffiliated EMS organizations**

# Assistance to Firefighters Grants

There are three program areas under AFG

- Vehicle Acquisition
- Operations and Safety
- Regional Projects



# Vehicle Acquisition Activity



- Awards are capped at 25% of the appropriation.
- Specific priorities based on type of community served and other department characteristics.

# Fire Apparatus Priorities

Priority	Urban Communities	Suburban Communities	Rural Communities
1	Pumper Aerial Quint (Aerial <76') Quint (Aerial 76' or >) Rescue	Aerial Quint (Aerial <76') Quint (Aerial 76' or >)	Pumper Brush/Attack Tanker/Tender Quint (Aerial <76')
2	Command HazMat Light/Air Rehab Foam Truck	Command HazMat Rescue Tanker/Tender Brush/Attack Foam Truck	Rescue Light/Air Aerial Quint (Aerial 76' or >)
3	ARFFV Brush/Attack Tanker/Tender Ambulance Fire Boat ATV	ARFFV Rehab Light/Air Ambulance Fire Boat ATV	Foam Truck ARFFV Rehab Command Ambulance Fire Boat ATV

# EMS Vehicle Priorities

Priority One	Priority Two	Priority Three
(transport unit) to support EMT-B needs and functions	First Response Unit (non-transport, chase unit)  Operations vehicles (HAZMAT, rescue)	Command Vehicle  Hovercraft  Other Specialty

# **Assistance to Firefighters Grant**

## **Operations and Safety Activities**

- **Training**
- **Equipment**
- **Personal Protective Equipment**
- **Modifications to Facilities**
- **Wellness/Fitness Services**

# **Assistance to Firefighters Grant**

## **Regional Applications**

- **Eligible applicants may act as a host for a regional application.**
- **Regional projects are designed to facilitate interoperability and efficiency among participants.**
- **Standardization does NOT necessarily equate to interoperability.**

# Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Requires a local cash match  
based on population served

Under 20,000 population	5%
-------------------------	----

20,000 - 50,000 population	10%
----------------------------	-----

Over 50,000 population	20%
------------------------	-----



# Assistance to Firefighters Grant

<u>Population</u>	<u>Maximum Federal Funding</u>
Less than 500,000	\$1,000,000
500,000 - 1,000,000	\$1,750,000
More than 1,000,000	\$2,750,000

# Questions?



# 2009 AFG Program

- All applicants may submit three separate applications:
  1. Vehicle Acquisition
  2. Operations and Safety Activities
  3. Regional project
- Population protected and call volume are factors considered for all activities.

# 2009 AFG Program

- Previous vehicle awardees are eligible for another vehicle award in 2009.
- Urban/suburban applicants may request multiple vehicles on the same application.

# Training

- Fire department applicants must indicate the percentage of active firefighters trained to NFPA 1001.
- Fire department applicants that have less than 100% of active firefighters trained to NFPA 1001 will be asked to explain their plans to meet the standard.
- These questions will be asked for every activity.

# Personal Protective Clothing

- Applicants will be asked to provide significant detail in their requests regarding existing equipment inventory.
- The age of existing equipment will be considered in all phases of review.



# Self Contained Breathing Apparatus



- Applicants with significant numbers of SCBA that are old are a **high** priority.
- Applicants with SCBA that are compliant with the more current editions of NFPA 1997 are a **low** priority.

# **Regional Applicants**

**The following activities are eligible for Regional Grant Applications:**

- Communications**
- Training**



# **Regional Applicants**

**Any regional communications plan must comply with your Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and the SCIP must have been approved by DHS.**

# Wellness and Fitness

- Costs for consultants such as nutritionists and fitness trainers are *not eligible*.
- Costs for incentives to participate in wellness and fitness programs are *not eligible*.

# Questions?



# What's New for 2009?



# **EMS Response**

**The focus on the level of response for EMS services has changed from Basic Life Support (BLS) to Advanced Life Support (ALS).**

# **Wellness and Fitness**

## **Three Highest Priorities**

- **Entry level physicals**
- **Physical assessment for on board active fire and EMS personnel**
- **Immunizations for fire and EMS personnel**

## **Next Level of Priority**

- **Candidate physical agility assessments**
- **Physical fitness equipment**

# Modifications to Facilities

- Structures built after 2003 are not eligible for funding.
- Stations with sleeping quarters and occupied 24/7 are the highest priority.
- Exhaust extraction systems are a higher priority.

# Vehicle Acquisition

- **Grantees must comply with Chapter 6 of NFPA 1500 *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*.**
- **Standard operating procedures should require that all vehicle occupants wear seatbelts and that drivers obey all traffic signals, signs and laws.**



# **Electronic Scoring**

## **Two Important Facts**

- 1. The answers to many questions in your application have values assigned to them.**
- 2. The answers that most closely align with the program's priorities will score the highest.**

# Funding Priorities

**Check the “Priorities” section of the Program Guidance before deciding what items or programs you will request assistance in this year.**

# **Excess Funds**

**Up to fifty percent of a grant's excess funds may be used for training and/or wellness and fitness\* initiatives.**

**Any use of excess funds in this area must be approved by DHS in an amendment request.**

**\* Limited to the three W&F requisites.**

# Planning and Developing a Narrative



**All three grants opportunities require a narrative, each with specific elements that must be addressed.**

# The AFG Narrative

Four elements must be addressed

- Project Description And Project Budget
- Financial Need
- Cost/Benefit
- Effect on Daily Operations

# Key Points: Narrative



- Remember, your peers will be reading your narrative, so write the narrative to make your need clear to them.
- Relate only local information – not national statistics.
- Provide only information the reviewers don't know.
- Remember to discuss the training program and your plan to move toward 100% compliance with NFPA 1001.

# **Narrative: Project Description and Project Budget**

- **Who are you?**
- **Where are you?**
- **What is your identified risk/problem?**
- **What is your solution/remedy?**
- **What standards will be met?**
- **How much will it cost?**





# **Narrative: Financial Need**

- **Why do you need money from the Federal government?**
- **Briefly describe your income compared to your expenses to illustrate your current funding deficiencies.**
- **Explain your other attempts to fund needs.**
- **Explain financial and community trends or changes.**



# **Narrative: Cost/Benefit**



**Explain what benefits you will realize in return for the grant funds.**

- **Frequency of use vs. cost**
- **Increased efficiency of operation**
- **Most economical solution**
- **Interoperability**
- **Consequences of not receiving award**

# **Narrative:**

## **Effect on Daily Operations**

- **How will this grant improve firefighter safety and reduce loss of life and property?**
- **Discuss frequency of use.**
- **Describe how you will measure results.**

# Narrative: Helpful Hints

- Write the narrative offline.
- Make sure that the narrative is complete before you submit your application.
- Seek a third-party review.
- Avoid using templates and brand names.
- Once the application has been submitted it cannot be changed!

# **Narrative Scoring Exercise**

- **Review and score the narrative.**
- **Each element has the same weight.**
- **Your summary score should reflect the total score of all four elements.**

**Please complete your rating in 15  
minutes.**

# Time is up



# Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants Overview



FEMA



# **2009 SAFER Funding**

**\$210 Million**

**for**

**SAFER Grants**

# **SAFER Eligible Activities**

- **Hiring of Firefighters Activity  
(five years with match )**
- **Recruitment and Retention of  
Volunteer Firefighters Activity  
(up to 4 years with no match)**



# SAFER

## Hiring Firefighters

### – Purpose

- Improve the ability of fire departments to assemble a sufficient number of firefighters at a structure fire in compliance with the applicable sections of NFPA 1710 and 1720.
- Assist fire departments in reaching four person staffing on first-arriving suppression unit for structure fires as listed in OSHA 1910.134g.

# **SAFER Eligible Applicants**

## **Hiring of Firefighters Activity**

- **Career departments**
- **Combination departments**
- **Volunteer departments**

# **SAFER Match for Hiring**

**Grantees must match an increasing portion of the salary over a 5-year period.**

- Federal Share year one: up to 90%**
- Federal Share year two: 80%**
- Federal Share year three: 50%**
- Federal Share year four: 30%**
- Grantee match year five: 100%**

# **Key Factors for Hiring of Firefighters Activity**

**Grantees must maintain:**

- **The number of authorized and funded firefighter positions at the time of application**
- **The awarded SAFER-funded firefighter positions**
- **Throughout the entire five-year period of performance.**

# **SAFER**

## **Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters**

### **– Purpose**

- **Assist departments that are experiencing a high rate of turnover to maintain and/or increase staffing**
- **Increase departments staffing to comply with assembly requirements of NFPA and four-person staffing per OSHA**

# **SAFER Eligible Applicants**

## **Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity**

- **Volunteer departments**
- **Combination departments**
- **State and local organizations with an interest in volunteer firefighters**

# SAFER Match for Recruitment and Retention

There is  
**NO MATCH**  
for Recruitment and Retention  
grants!

# **SAFER Funding Limits**

- **10% of funding is designated for hiring of firefighters in volunteer or mostly volunteer departments.**
- **10% of funding is designated for Recruitment and Retention activities.**
- **\$111,523 limit for each firefighter position spread over the life of the grant.**



# Fire Prevention and Firefighter Safety Research and Development



FEMA



# **FP&S Funding**

**The allocation for  
Fire Prevention and Safety  
in 2009 is \$35 million  
(no less than 5% of the AFG  
appropriation).**

# FP&S

## Examples of Eligible Projects

- Public safety education
- Code enforcement/awareness
- Arson prevention/awareness
- Juvenile fire-setter programs
- Sprinkler awareness
- Smoke alarm distribution
- Burn prevention
- Firefighter safety R&D

# **FP&S Eligible Applicants**

**Any organization that has experience in fire prevention activities or that conducts research in fire safety activities is eligible to apply for this grant opportunity.**

# FP&S Match

**For fire departments, the match is based on population:**

- less than 20,000 = 5%**
- between 20,000 and 50,000 = 10%**
- over 50,000 = 20%**

**For other applicants, there is no cost share.**

# Procurement Integrity

- **Competition**
- **Documentation**
- **Specifications**
- **Conflicts of Interest**

# Competition

- **Grantees are expected to promote competition. This means soliciting pricing from multiple manufacturers.**
- **Purchases should be made as a result of the competition – from the manufacturer who best meets the requirements and provides the grantee with the best price and quality.**
- **The timeliness of delivery should be considered when making these decisions.**

# Documentation

- **Grantees are required to maintain documentation related to their purchases.**
- **Grantees who fail to document their purchases may find that their expenditures will be disallowed.**



# Specifications

- **Specifications shall clearly describe the requirements of the product to be purchased or contracted.**
- **However, specifications may not be written in a way that unduly limits, restricts, or eliminates competition unnecessarily.**

# Specifications

- **Grantees cannot impose in-State or local geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals.**
- **Any vendor who provides (directly or indirectly) specifications for any purchase is prohibited from submitting a bid for that purchase.**

# Specifications

- Do not indicate “brand names” in your application or in your specifications.
- Grantees that specify “brand name” products may be asked to provide DHS with their procurement documents (such as requests for proposals, invitations for bids, or independent cost estimates).

# Conflicts of Interest

**Members of your department who work for vendors/manufacturers cannot . . .**

- Work on the application**
- Develop specifications, or**
- Develop statements of work, or**
- Participate in the procurement of any requested item in the grant.**

# Conflicts?

- **Volunteers**
- **Employees**
- **Members**
- **Officers**
- **Family Members**
- **Grant Writers**

**May not benefit from the procurement of any item or contracted service purchased with grant funds.**

# Conflicts of Interest

**Grantees who purchase items from vendors who employ any of their volunteers/members must document how they avoided a conflict of interest during the procurement process.**

# Applicant Assistance

- Regional Points of Contact:

<http://www.firegrantsupport.com/prog/contact.aspx>

- Help Desk: 1-866-274-0960

- Email: [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov)

- Website: [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com)

# Questions





# FEMA

# Thank you

